

**MINUTES
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, July 12, 2011
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

Next Meeting:

July 12, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, Amy Countryman, Ted Mendoza, Janice Lilly, Cynthia Schultz, George Huntington,

Regrets: Toby Strout, Dave Rollo, Amanda Figolah, Michael Beczkiewicz, Melissa Clark, David Parkhurst

Staff: Jacqui Bauer

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Public comment: Daniel McMullen commented briefly on constitutional rights.

Approval of the minutes: The May 2012 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Report from the Chair

Recap of cool roofs discussion with City Planning: Maggie and Dave P. met with Tom Micuda from City Planning. The City is in charge of zoning code, and the County handles building permits, which would be more appropriate for green roof requirements. Options include asking County Building to consider a mandate, or incorporating incentives into the City's green building incentives. Discussions will continue, but incentives were initially the preferred approach.

Are there any covenants that prohibit white/cool roofs?

BCOS budget: There are about \$1400 remaining in the 2011 budget, with about \$750 for supplies and the rest for event support. The Commission will discuss both possible uses for these funds and ways to make decisions about funds at the next meeting.

This led to a discussion of the bike summit—Jacqui will share the initial ranking of priorities with the Commission.

BCOS membership: The City Council is considering replacements for Andy Davis. Heidi Russell Wagner has resigned as the county's representative. Jacqui will approach the county to determine how to proceed with a reappointment.

Planning for outreach and communications: Maggie did an interview with January Jones from WFHB; Cynthia, Jacqui, and intern Jill Minor were interviewed by Rod Spaw from the Herald Times earlier today.

Maggie is working to get Drew Wood, the energy specialist from the MCCSC, to attend a future meeting.

Report on the BALLE Conference

Cynthia and Jacqui attended the conference of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies in mid-June in Bellingham, Washington.

Bellingham is similar in size to Bloomington and is also a college town. Sustainable Connections helped organize the conference, and is a possible model for “stitching together” the various sustainability organizations here in Bloomington.

Cynthia focused on the development of green jobs—she and Jacqui participated in a tour of manufacturing facilities that had implemented the “triple bottom line” value. Of particular was the idea of encouraging businesses not to think of labor as a commodity helps tie those businesses more to place.

Another topic discussed at the conference was the idea of community finance—an organization called RSF Finance was one of the sponsors of the conference. They offer opportunities for both institutional and individual investors, and a source of finance for local projects (including Bloomington businesses like Bloomingfoods).

An application was submitted by Local First for Bloomington to host the conference next year. We are still waiting for a decision.

Committee Reports:

ECPC: Maggie has been serving as the BCOS representative to the Environmental Commission Planning Committee. If other commission members are interested in serving in this position, please let Maggie know.

STAR: The committee is continuing to pursue a web-based report to allow for easy updates. Energy targets have largely been completed and are up online; water and housing are in progress.

The committee discussed the new webpages with Rod Spaw from the Herald Times today. Cynthia will talk to the county Building Department about possible ways to track green development as part of the report. The Environmental Commission has been asked for input on the water targets.

Water: No members were present.

Energy: No report from the committee beyond the STAR report.

Food: The Food Policy Council will meet this Thursday, and the steering committee will be sending out a food-related survey soon.

Communications: The website is up and running, and an intern is working to fill in additional information. There has also been a request for an advertising section on the website. It is unclear at this point where the money might go, but Ted is exploring options.

New Business:

Ted talked to Rafael Vega at the Monroe County Soil & Water Conservation District, who is interested in attending a future BCOS meeting to present on their programs.

Jacqui has also been approached by Coca Cola about converting donated barrels into rainbarrels, decorating them, and selling them or auctioning them off as a fundraiser. She will follow up with Melissa to gauge her interest; Maggie will also support the effort if it moves forward.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.